

their vices, if they have any, are so many spots which you would no more imitate, than you would make an artificial wart upon your face, because some very handsome man had the misfortune to have a natural one upon his; but, on the contrary, think how much handsomer he would have been without it."¹ Letter CCXXIV, "Let no conversation, no example, no fashion, no bon mot, no silly desire of seeming to be above, what most knaves and many fools, call prejudices, ever tempt you to avow, excuse, extenuate, or laugh at the least breach of morality; but shew upon all occasions, and take all occasions to shew, a detestation and abhorrence of it. There, though young, you ought to be strict; and there only, while young, it becomes you to be strict and severe;"² and this most admirable passage from Letter CCXIX, "I hope you are in haste to live; by living I mean living with lustre and honour to yourself, with utility to society; doing what may deserve to be written, or writing what may deserve to be read; I should wish both."³

The pastimes for a courtly gentleman were riding and tilting, playing at all weapons, shooting fairly with bow or surely with a gun, vaulting, running, leaping, wrestling, swimming, dancing, singing, playing on instruments, hawking, hunting, and any other pastime possessing exercise for war or pleasure for peace. These pastimes were considered not only for their pleasure and exercise but also as a necessity for a courtier.⁴ Of all the accomplishments, that of horsemanship was held in highest repute.⁵ Of the

1. Chesterfield's Letters to His Son, p 194, Letter CLXY.

2. op. cit., p 323, Letter CCXXIV.

3. op. cit., p 311, Letter CCXIX.

4. The Schoolmaster, p 63.

5. Doctrine of English Gentleman, p 154.